

# Spencer Coggs



## State Senator

Senate Bill 423 Testimony  
Senator Spencer Coggs  
Tue. Feb. 9, 2010

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Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 423 regarding establishing a quorum for meetings of the Milwaukee Public Library Board.

As the statutes are currently written, the Milwaukee Public Library Board must have a quorum of totaling a majority of the total number of seats on the board, whether they are filled or not. This requirement is unique to the City of Milwaukee. Between unfilled seats and schedule conflicts, the Board has a consistent issue obtaining a quorum at its meetings.

SB 423 would make two changes to bring quorum requirements for the Milwaukee Public Library Board into alignment with other public bodies in the state. First, a quorum would be constituted by a majority of members of the **filled** board seats. Second, the requirement that the County Executive appoint a County Supervisor that does NOT live in the City of Milwaukee would be amended so that the Executive could select any Supervisor regardless of residence. This change is supported by the Milwaukee County Executive.

This legislation, while applying only to the City of Milwaukee Public Library board, has statewide ramifications. There are tremendous networks of interconnected library systems in Wisconsin that extend beyond the borders of municipalities and counties to serve patrons throughout the state. If Milwaukee is not able to achieve quorum, this will affect the other municipalities that share services with Milwaukee and those that use Milwaukee's actions as guidance for their library system.

Again, thank you for holding this hearing today on Senate Bill 423.